



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### 325th Fighter Wing

#### Office of Public Affairs

Tyndall AFB, Fla 32403-5552

### COLONEL (DR) GEORGE NICOLAS JR

Colonel George Nicolas Jr. is the commander of the 325th Medical Group, 325th Fighter Wing, Air Education And Training Command, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. The 325th Medical Group serves the dynamically changing health needs of the Florida Gulf Coast community. It does this by striving to deliver superior access, quality care, and service to the approximately 22,000 individuals eligible for medical care in the Tyndall Community.

The colonel was born on May 20, 1953 in Detroit, Michigan. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science in 1974 from Ferris State College, Big Rapids, Michigan. After working for four years in public health, he returned to Ferris State University, College of Optometry where he received his Doctor of Optometry in 1983.

Colonel Nicolas entered the Air Force in 1983 on a direct commission into the Biomedical Science Corps. Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico was his first assignment and worked as a solo optometrist until 1986 when he was reassigned to Royal Air Force Lakenheath as the Assistant Chief of Optometry Services. In 1989, Colonel Nicolas was selected and sent to Wilford Hall Medical Center as the first Air Force Optometry Resident. Upon completion, he was assigned to Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota.

Colonel Nicolas not only served as the Chief of Optometry Services, but also served as the Senior Biomedical Science Corps Officer and Consultant to the Air Combat Command Surgeon for Optometry. After completing Air Command and Staff College in residence in 1994, he assumed the position of Chief of Optometry Training Programs, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Two years later in 1996, he assumed the position of Flight Commander, Biomedical Sciences Flight, 382d Training Squadron where he had overall responsibility for Air Force biomedical sciences technician training that included \$16 million in resources and operations requirements with 70 faculty for 13 resident and 12 non-resident courses. Over 1,200 students representing 11 health care disciplines were trained annually. Colonel Nicolas then served as the Chief Military Consultant to the Surgeon General for Ancillary Services from 1998 to 2000. Colonel Nicolas advised the Surgeon General on policy and operational issues for 11 biomedical specialties. He oversaw the establishment of standards of care provided by 1,850 biomedical professionals. Additionally, he represented the Surgeon General on numerous cross-functional Air Staff and Department of Defense teams. In 2001, Colonel Nicolas took command of the 55th Medical Support Squadron, Offutt AFB, Nebraska that provided the clinical and administrative support for the healthcare of 50,000 military beneficiaries with a staff of 190 personnel, \$86 million in real property assets, and an annual operating budget of \$22 million. He commanded the 405<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Medical Group in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM in early 2003. Colonel Nicolas' most recently took command of the 375<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Scott AFB, Illinois that consists of 116 personnel in seven flights which support a \$48 million healthcare platform for 55,000 beneficiaries.



### EDUCATION

1975	Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan
1983	Doctorate of Optometry, Ferris State University, College of Optometry, Big Rapids, Michigan
1987	Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (Resident)
1990	Optometry Residency, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas
1994	Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (Resident)

1998 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (Nonresident)

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Jul 1983 - Jul 1986, Staff Optometrist, 49thUSAF Hospital Holloman, Holloman AFB NM
2. Jul 1986 - Jun 1989, Assistant Chief, Optometry Services, RAF Lakenheath UK
3. Jul 1989 - Jun 1990, Optometry Resident, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB TX
4. Jul 1990 - Jul 1993, Chief, Optometry Services, 319th Medical Group, Grand Forks AFB ND
5. Aug 1993 - Jul 1994, Resident Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB AL
6. Jul 1994 - Jul 1996, Chief, Optometry Training Programs, 382d Training Squadron, Sheppard AFB TX
7. Jul 1996 - Jul 1998, Commander, Biomedical Sciences Flight, 382d Training Squadron, Sheppard AFB TX
8. Aug 1998 - Feb 2001, Chief Military Consultant to the Surgeon General for Ancillary Services, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Office of the Surgeon General, Bolling AFB DC
9. Feb 2001 - July 2003, Commander, 55<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron, Offutt AFB NE
10. Jan 2003 - May 2003, Commander, 405<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Medical Group, Classified Location
11. Jul 2003 to Jun 2005, Commander, 375<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Scott AFB IL
12. Jun 2005 to present, commander, 325th Medical Group, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

The Bronze Star

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

National Defense Service Medal with service star

Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

The Colonel Floyd M. Morris USAF Optometrist of the Year, 1996

AETC Technical Training Flight Commander of the Year, 1996 and 1997

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	N/A
First Lieutenant	N/A
Captain	27 July 1983
Major	1 October 1990
Lieutenant Colonel	1 December 1996
Colonel	1 September 2002

(Current as of July 2005)